



EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1652

16/c
(NE)
DmT
4-9-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Hu <i>et al.</i>	Group Art Unit:	1652
Application No.:	09/854,844	Examiner:	D. Ramirez
Filed:	05/14/2001	Atty. Docket No.:	LEX-0176-USA
Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides Encoding the Same			

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 2, 2002

Box AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on December 2, 2002 (Paper No. 13), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No. 13 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of one month to and including April 2, 2003, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additionally required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.



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AF/1602
PTO/SB/21 (08-00)
Approval for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/854,844	
	Filing Date	May 14, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Hu, Yi	
	Group Art Unit	1635	
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	24	Attorney Docket Number	LEX-0176-USA

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ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request (Original & Copy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	- Return Postcard
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	- Exhibits A - C
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	- Corrected Oath/Declaration filed 03/01/02
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Lexicon Genetics Incorporated Lance K. Ishimoto Reg. No. 41,866
Signature	 24231 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Date	March 31, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Arlington, VA 22202 on this date: <u>March 31, 2003</u>			
Typed or printed name	Michelle Klein		
Signature		Date	March 31, 2003